

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Office for the careful consideration given to his application in the Office's communication mailed 06/10/2004. In that communication, claims 18, 19, and 20 were objected to as being substantial duplicates of claims 8, 9, and 10. Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by either Saurwein (4,096,649) or Kraft (2,155,166). Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Saurwein or Kraft in view of either Kaplan (1,387,988) or Frederick (4,562,651). Claims 6 - 10, 16, and 17 were allowed. Claims 3 - 5 and 13 - 15 were objected to as being depended upon a rejected claim base.

"Double Patenting" Objection

Applicant has canceled claims 18 - 20 to obviate this objection.

102 Rejections

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 13 respectively, since the Office has stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since neither Saurwein nor Kraft have all the elements and limitations of claims 1 and 11, as amended, claims 1 and 11 are no longer anticipated and should be allowed. Claims 3 and 13 are canceled. Claims 4, 5, 14, and 15 now depend from an allowable claim base and should also be allowable.

103 Rejections

Claims 2 and 12 depend from claims 1 and 11 respectively, which are amended to include the limitation that the sides of the longitudinal ridges closest to the centerline are beveled between

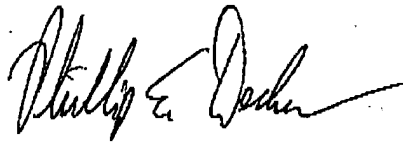
15 and 17 degrees. This is neither taught nor suggested by the referenced patents. Therefore, claims 2 and 12 should now be allowable.

Objections Due to Rejected Claim Base

The substance of dependent claims 3 and 13 were incorporated into claims 1 and 11 respectively, so claims 1 and 11 should be allowable. Claims 3 and 13 as submitted are now canceled. Claims 4, 5, 14, and 15 now depend from an allowable claim base and should also be allowable.

In conclusion, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected and objected to claims. The Office is encouraged to phone the Applicant's attorney at the number below to resolve any remaining issues to bring about a speedy allowance for this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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